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conception they have of the *universalism* of Yahweh worship. And this latter conception arises out of their idea of the ethical character of God. This basis of universalism is worked out into the Deuteronomic Torah, which apparently coming to nought by reason of the creation of *Judaism* by Ezra and Nehemiah, lives on, appears in the Essenes, among the Pharisees, and finally culminates in the Universal Religion founded by Jesus. "We have no hesitation in pronouncing Christianity the most universal of religions." (311.)

In this rapid and inadequate statement which contains but little new to the student of Kuenen's "Religion of Israel," one is impressed with many thoughts, as well as oppressed with many queries. The writer's calm *audacity* is overwhelming. His one-sidedness is as startling as his breadth.

While he does not deny, he ignores the supernatural; he obscurely hints at what his idea of prophecy can be. He plays with Scripture as a cat with a mouse; or as a child with wax. All these writers ought to be read with this in mind,—that while they are keen verbal critics, they are doubtful metaphysicians. Some of them cannot appreciate the relation of metaphysics and theology to criticism. To criticise the Bible by previously eliminating the supernatural, is like the study of a dead man. As anatomical students of the Scriptures we recognize the value of these critics. But we reserve the right to breathe again into the book the spirit of the Divine.

This book is written with marvellous clearness and simplicity. While a genuine contribution to a profound science of religion, it commends itself to the ordinary reader by the brilliance and pungency of its style as well as in the tone of sincere modesty which, with all its boldness, it cannot fail to impress. G.

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#### LETTERS OF CERTAIN JEWS TO MONSIEUR VOLTAIRE.

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I am glad to offer my mite to confirm the authority of the Old Testament. I have just finished a rare and valuable book which I think is out of print, and if so I hope some one will speedily reprint it. The title page reads as follows: "Letters of Certain Jews to Monsieur Voltaire containing an apology for their own People and for the Old Testament, with commentary and notes translated by the Rev. Philip Lefance, D. D.—two volumes in one—Published by Hermen Hooker, Philadelphia, and George G. Jones, Cincinnati."

This book furnishes the Christian community in general, and the theologian in particular, with unanswerable arguments, against the horrors of infidelity, the virulent assaults of Voltaire against Moses and the Prophets—considering the Pentateuch and its authorship—The adoration of the Golden Calf answered—The ritual laws of the Jews—Toleration among the Jews—That the Jewish Religion was more wisely tolerant than other ancient religions—The Mosaic laws, religious and moral political laws, military laws, civil laws—The object, antiquity, duration, &c., of the Mosaic legislation—Whether the Jewish law authorized human sacrifices—Jephtath's daughter was not sacrificed, else why did the Hebrew maidens go up four days every year to "talk with her" and comfort her?—Circumcision is considered and the mistakes of Voltaire corrected—Solomon his riches, having the

extent of the dominions, &c.—The Book of Wisdom—The Book of Proverbs—Sciences and Arts of Languages, Latin, Greek, and Hebrew. The Book has an index of every subject, treats nearly 250 separate topics. The Book has 612 pages and is entitled “Jews Letters to Voltaire.”—I offer two testimonials, the first from a clergyman, the second from an eminent physician of Kentucky. “I regard this work as one of the most triumphant reputations of Voltaire’s skeptical philosophy and of his varied assaults against the Bible I have met. It is the work of mighty minds, well read in Hebrew learning and thorough masters of their subject. It will be profitable to Christians, Jews and Infidels to give the work a careful reading.” The doctor’s testimony is this: “I regard the book as one of the most extraordinary I have met in my reading, for merit, logic, courtesy, learning, and comprehensive intelligence. Some years ago, I offered twenty dollars for a copy of it, and could not buy it, but afterwards got it by accident.” E. B. GOODALL.

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